

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00

ERDA-05 /066 W

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P R 211821Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 0206

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 01982

PASS: EUR/RPE FOR LAMB, OES FOR PROCHNIK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: UK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON DRAGON: 12/18/75

REFS: (A) OECD PARIS 32465, (B) STATE 11554

1. DR. SHEPHERD, DIRECTOR OF DRAGON PROJECT HAS JUST DRAWN ATTENTION OF MISSION TO UK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON 18 DECEMBER AS REPORTED IN HANSARD, PAGES 1716-1740. ON PAGE 1728 THERE IS A FANCIFUL STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED BY PATRICK JENKIN, M.P. TO KRAMISH, MISSION SCICOUNS TO THE EFFECT THAT "HE INDICATED AN INTEREST AND SUGGESTED THAT THE AMERICANS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO OFFER UP TO \$2 MILLION AS SUPPORT FOR DRAGON VIA THE IEA".

2. NEITHER SCICOUNS NOR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF MISSION HAS MADE ANY STATEMENT CONCERNING POSSIBLE LEVEL OF SUPPORT. UNTIL RECEIPT OF REF (B) OF 16 JANUARY MISSION HAD NO INDICATION OF POSSIBLE LEVEL OF ERDA SUPPORT AND SINCE INFORMATION IN REF (B) IS STILL VAGUE MISSION DOES NOT INTEND TO PASS IT ON EXCEPT WHEN  
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SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED.

3. OUR TENTATIVE IMPRESSION IS THAT JENKIN EITHER RECEIVED A DISTORTED ACCOUNT OF A SANITIZED VERSION OF OUR REF (A) DISCUSSED IN PART WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION, OR DISTORTED IT HIMSELF.

HIS STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT INDICATES THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MICHAEL SPICER, M.P. (CONSERVATIVE) WHO IN TURN HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY. DRAGON IS LOCATED IN SPICER'S CONSTITUENCY. RECORD INDICATES HEATED DEBATE LED BY ARTHUR PALMER (LABOUR, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) AND BY JENKIN WHO UNTIL MID-JANUARY 1976 WAS SHADOW CABINET MINISTER FOR ENERGY. THEY VEHEMENTLY ATTACKED THE DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN DRAGON.

4. RECOMMENDED ACTION: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INSTRUCTING EMBASSY LONDON INDICATE TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND UK AEA OFFICIALS THAT STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO KRAMISH IN HANSARD OF 18 DECEMBER IS DISTORTION OF US POSITION, MAKING POINT THAT US IS INDEED CONSIDERING DRAGON IN THE LIGHT OF NEW MULTILATERAL OBJECTIVES, POSSIBLY RELATING FUTURE DRE ACTIVITIES TO IEA PROGRAMS. SECTIONS OF HANSARD DEALING WITH NUCLEAR MATTERS ARE USUALLY REPORTED IN THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE ATOM OF THE UK AEA. IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO SUGGEST THAT NO PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED TO DISSEMINATE FURTHER INACCURATE ACCOUNTS OF US POSITION STATED AT THE 18 DECEMBER DEBATE.  
TURNER

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## Message Attributes

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